

Table of Contents

CHAPTER I: OVERVIEW OF THIS PLAN AND ITS DEVELOPMENT	1
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 GOALS AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES.....	1
1.1.1 Federal Emergency Management Agency Philosophy	1
1.1.2 Additional State and Federal Guidelines Adopted.....	2
1.1.2.1 National Fire Plan	3
1.1.2.2 Idaho Statewide Implementation Strategy.....	4
1.1.2.2.1 County Wildland Fire Interagency Group.....	5
1.1.2.3 National Association of State Foresters	6
1.1.2.3.1 Identifying and Prioritizing Communities at Risk.....	6
1.1.2.3.2 Conceptual Approach.....	7
1.1.2.4 Healthy Forests Restoration Act	8
1.1.3 Local Guidelines and Integration with Other Efforts.....	9
1.1.3.1 Twin Falls County Fire Mitigation Planning Effort and Philosophy.....	9
1.1.3.1.1 Mission Statement.....	9
1.1.3.1.2 Vision Statement.....	9
1.1.3.1.3 Goals	9
CHAPTER 2: PLANNING PROCESS.....	10
2 DOCUMENTING THE PLANNING PROCESS	10
2.1.1 Description of the Planning Process	10
2.2 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT.....	11
2.2.1 News Releases	11
2.2.1.1 Radio Messages	11
2.2.1.2 Newspaper Articles	11
2.2.2 Public Mail Survey	12
2.2.2.1 Survey Results	13
2.2.2.2 Committee Meetings	16
2.2.2.3 Public Meetings	19
2.2.2.3.1 Hansen Public Meeting	20
2.2.2.3.2 Twin Falls Public Meeting	20
2.2.2.3.3 Buhl Public Meeting	20
2.2.2.3.4 Kimberly Public Meeting	20
2.2.2.3.5 Meeting Notices	20
2.3 REVIEW OF THE WUI WILDFIRE MITIGATION PLAN	21
CHAPTER 3: COUNTY CHARACTERISTICS & RISK ASSESSMENT	22
3 BACKGROUND AND AREA DESCRIPTION.....	22
3.1 DEMOGRAPHICS.....	22
3.2 SOCIOECONOMICS	24
3.2.1 European Settlement of Twin Falls County	26
3.3 DESCRIPTION OF TWIN FALLS COUNTY	27
3.3.1 Highways.....	28
3.3.2 Rivers.....	28
3.3.3 Temperature	28
3.3.4 Growing Season.....	28
3.3.5 Days of Sunshine	28
3.3.6 Recreation.....	28
3.3.7 Resource Dependency.....	29
3.4 EMERGENCY SERVICES & PLANNING AND ZONING.....	30
3.4.1 Growth and Development	30
3.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES	30
3.5.1 The Oregon Trail	33

3.6	TRANSPORTATION.....	33
3.7	VEGETATION & CLIMATE	34
3.7.1	Rangeland	35
3.7.2	Monthly Climate Summaries in Twin Falls County	35
3.7.2.1	Castleford, Idaho (101551)	35
3.7.2.2	Buhl, Idaho (101220)	36
3.7.2.3	Twin Falls, Idaho (109299).....	36
3.7.2.4	Hollister, Idaho (104295).....	36
3.7.2.5	Twin Falls WSO, Idaho (109303).....	37
3.8	WILDFIRE HAZARD PROFILES	37
3.8.1	Wildfire Ignition Profile	37
3.8.2	Wildfire Extent Profile.....	40
3.9	ANALYSIS TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES TO ASSESS FIRE RISK	44
3.9.1	Fire Prone Landscapes.....	44
3.9.2	Fire Regime Condition Class.....	48
3.9.3	Predicted Fire Severity.....	50
3.9.3.1	Purpose	50
3.9.3.2	General Limitations.....	51
3.9.4	On-Site Evaluations	51
3.9.5	Fuel Model Descriptions.....	52
3.9.5.1	Grass Group	52
3.9.5.1.1	Fire Behavior Fuel Model 1	52
3.9.5.1.2	Fire Behavior Fuel Model 2	52
3.9.5.1.3	Fire Behavior Fuel Model 3	53
3.9.5.2	Shrub Group.....	53
3.9.5.2.1	Fire Behavior Fuel Model 4	53
3.9.5.2.2	Fire Behavior Fuel Model 5	53
3.9.5.2.3	Fire Behavior Fuel Model 6	54
3.9.5.2.4	Fire Behavior Fuel Model 7	54
3.9.5.3	Timber Group	54
3.9.5.3.1	Fire Behavior Fuel Model 8	54
3.9.5.3.2	Fire Behavior Fuel Model 9	55
3.9.5.3.3	Fire Behavior Fuel Model 10	55
3.9.5.4	Logging Slash Group	56
3.9.5.4.1	Fire Behavior Fuel Model 11	56
3.9.5.4.2	Fire Behavior Fuel Model 12	56
3.9.5.4.3	Fire Behavior Fuel Model 13	57
3.10	WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE	57
3.10.1	People and Structures	57
3.10.2	Infrastructure	61
3.10.3	Ecosystems	61
3.11	SOILS	62
3.11.1	Physiography	63
3.11.2	Fire Mitigation Practices to Maintain Soil Processes	63
3.12	HYDROLOGY	64
3.12.1	Fire Mitigation Practices to Maintain Hydrologic Processes	64
3.13	AIR QUALITY	66
3.13.1	Fire Mitigation Practices to Maintain Air Quality	67
CHAPTER 4: SUMMARIES OF RISK AND PREPAREDNESS		69
4	OVERVIEW.....	69
4.1	WILDLAND FIRE CHARACTERISTICS	69
4.1.1	Weather.....	69
4.1.2	Topography.....	69
4.1.3	Fuels.....	70
4.2	TWIN FALLS COUNTY CONDITIONS.....	70
4.2.1	County Wide Potential Mitigation Activities.....	71
4.2.1.1	Prevention	71

4.2.1.2	Education	72
4.2.1.3	Readiness- Fire Suppression in Twin Falls County- A Cooperative Effort.....	73
4.2.1.4	Building Codes	73
4.3	TWIN FALLS COUNTY'S WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE	74
4.3.1	Mitigation Activities Applicable to all Communities	74
4.3.1.1	Homesite Evaluations and Creation of Defensible Space	74
4.3.1.2	Travel Corridor Fire Breaks	75
4.3.1.3	Power Line and Pipeline Corridor Fire Breaks	75
4.4	RANGELAND COMMUNITIES IN TWIN FALLS COUNTY	75
4.4.1	Vegetative Associations.....	75
4.4.2	Overall Fuels Assessment	76
4.4.3	Individual Community Assessments.....	77
4.4.4	Buhl Fire District and the Community of Buhl and the Snake River Canyon	78
4.4.4.1	Community Assessment.....	78
4.4.4.2	Other High Risk Areas	78
4.4.4.2.1	Melon Valley- Carter Pack Road	78
4.4.4.2.2	River Road, East River Road, Kanaka Rapids, and Boulder Ridge.....	79
4.4.4.3	Mitigation Efforts.....	80
4.4.4.3.1	Banbury Hidden Landing Wildland Urban Interface Fuels Treatment.....	80
4.4.4.4	Mitigation Activities and Recommendations	80
4.4.5	Castleford Fire District and the Community of Castleford	80
4.4.5.1	Community Assessment.....	81
4.4.5.2	Mitigation Activities and Recommendations	82
4.4.6	Filer Fire District and the Community of Filer	82
4.4.6.1	Community Assessment.....	82
4.4.6.2	High Risk Areas	83
4.4.6.2.1	Southwest corner	83
4.4.6.2.2	Snake River Rim	83
4.4.6.3	Mitigation Activities and Recommendations	83
4.4.7	Twin Falls Fire District and the City of Twin Falls	83
4.4.7.1	Community Assessment.....	84
4.4.7.2	Other High Risk Areas	84
4.4.7.2.1	West of Twin Falls, including Rock Creek Estates, Rock Creek Point, Village at Canyon Gate and Canyon Trails	84
4.4.7.2.2	East of Twin Falls, including East Poleline Road and Canyon Ridge and Meadow Ridge	85
4.4.7.2.3	Dierkes Lake and Hidden Lake	85
4.4.7.2.4	Rock Creek Park and Rock Creek Parkway	85
4.4.7.2.5	Centennial Park and Snake River Canyon Trail	85
4.4.7.3	Mitigation Activities and Recommendations	86
4.4.8	Rock Creek Rural Fire Protection District and the Communities of Kimberly, Hanson, Murtaugh and Rock Creek	86
4.4.8.1	Community Assessments	87
4.4.8.1.1	Kimberly and Hansen.....	87
4.4.8.1.2	Murtaugh.....	87
4.4.8.1.3	Rock Creek.....	88
4.4.8.2	Other High Risk Areas	89
4.4.8.2.1	China Ridge-Hidden Lakes	89
4.4.8.2.2	Pleasant Valley, Cottonwood Heights, and Parrot Crossing.....	90
4.4.8.3	Mitigation Activities and Recommendations	90
4.4.9	Salmon Tract Rural Fire Protection District, including the Communities of Hollister and Rogerson ...	91
4.4.9.1	Community Assessments	91
4.4.9.1.1	Hollister.....	91
4.4.9.1.2	Rogerson	92
4.4.9.2	High Risk Areas.....	93
4.4.9.3	Mitigation Activities and Recommendations	93
4.4.10	Communities outside Rural Fire Protection Districts- Roseworth, Bell Rapids, Three Creek, Magic Water and Hannahs Fork	94
4.4.11	Critical Infrastructure in Twin Falls County	94
4.4.11.1	Power Transmission Lines	94
4.4.11.2	Petroleum and Natural Gas Pipelines	95

4.4.11.3	Railroads	95
4.4.11.4	Primary and Secondary Roads	95
4.5	ISSUES FACING TWIN FALLS COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION	96
4.5.1	Recruitment and Retention, Funding, Equipment Needs, Etc.....	96
4.5.2	Road Signage and Rural Addressing	96
4.5.3	Augmentation of Emergency Water Supplies.....	96
4.5.4	Dispatching and Radio Communications.....	97
4.5.5	Upcoming Radio Frequency Conversion.....	97
4.5.6	Development of County-wide Burn Permit Policy	97
4.6	CURRENT WILDFIRE MITIGATION ACTIVITIES IN TWIN FALLS COUNTY	97
4.6.1	Bureau of Land Management Communities-at-Risk Program.....	97
4.6.2	Banbury Hidden Landing Communities-at-Risk Project	97
4.6.3	Rogerson Communities-at-Risk Project	98
4.6.4	Red Zone Program.....	98
4.6.5	Rock Creek Hazard Fuel Reduction Project	98
4.7	FIRE FIGHTING RESOURCES AND CAPABILITIES	99
4.7.1	Wildland Fire Districts.....	99
4.7.1.1	Upper Snake River BLM, Twin Falls District.....	99
4.7.1.2	USDA Forest Service.....	102
4.7.2	Rural Fire Districts	103
4.7.2.1	Buhl Fire Department.....	103
4.7.2.2	Castleford Fire District.....	105
4.7.2.3	Filer Fire District.....	106
4.7.2.4	Rock Creek Rural Fire Protection District	107
4.7.2.5	Salmon Tract Rural Fire Protection District.....	109
4.7.2.6	Twin Falls Fire Department	110
CHAPTER 5: TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS	113	
5 OVERVIEW.....	113	
5.1	TREATMENT CATEGORIES.....	114
5.1.1	<i>WUI Safety and Policy</i>	114
5.2	PEOPLE AND STRUCTURES	114
5.3	INFRASTRUCTURE	114
5.4	RESOURCE AND CAPABILITY ENHANCEMENTS	115
5.5	REGIONAL LAND MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS.....	115
5.5.1	Railroad Right-of-Way	116
5.6	EXISTING PRACTICES THAT SHOULD CONTINUE.....	116
5.7	COUNTY-WIDE RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTIVITIES	117
5.8	BUHL FIRE DEPARTMENT- MITIGATION ACTIVITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	123
5.9	CASTLEFORD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT- MITIGATION ACTIVITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	125
5.10	FILER FIRE DISTRICT- MITIGATION ACTIVITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	126
5.11	ROCK CREEK FIRE DISTRICT- MITIGATION ACTIVITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	128
5.12	SALMON TRACT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT- MITIGATION ACTIVITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS	130
5.13	TWIN FALLS CITY AND RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENT- MITIGATION ACTIVITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS.132	
CHAPTER 6: SUPPORTING INFORMATION.....	134	
6.....	134	
6.1	LIST OF TABLES	134
6.2	LIST OF FIGURES	135
6.3	LIST OF PREPARERS	136
6.4	SIGNATURE PAGES.....	137
6.5	GLOSSARY OF TERMS	140
6.6	LITERATURE CITED.....	147